

**Mayor**  
Richard Beneville  
**Manager**  
Glenn Steckman  
**Clerk**  
Bryant Hammond



**Nome City Council**  
Jerald Brown  
Doug Johnson  
Mark Johnson  
Adam Martinson  
Jennifer Reader  
Meghan Sigvanna Topkok

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**NOME COMMON COUNCIL (amended)  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY MAY 19, 2020 @ 5:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL  
CITIZEN'S COMMENTS TAKEN AT 443-6605**

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- III. CITIZENS' COMMENTS
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Review of Emergency Orders to Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in the City of Nome,
    - i. Emergency Order 2020-01  
**PAGE 1**
    - ii. Emergency Order 2020-02  
**PAGE 7**
    - iii. Emergency Order 2020-03  
**PAGE 11**
    - iv. Emergency Order 2020-04  
**PAGE 15**
    - v. Emergency Order 2020-06
- V. ADJOURNMENT



**MINUTES  
NOME CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 19, 2020**

The special meeting of the Nome City Council was called to order at 5:31 PM by Acting Mayor Brown in Council Chambers located at 102 Division St in Nome Alaska.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jerald Brown; Doug Johnson (telephonic); Mark Johnson; Adam Martinson; Jennifer Reader; Meghan Topkok (telephonic)

Members Absent:

Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; John Handeland, Utility Manager

In the audience: Emily Hofstaedter (KNOM); Diana Haecker (Nome Nugget); Ken Hughes; John Schneider; Janet Balice

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Acting Mayor Brown asked if there were changes to the agenda.

A motion was made by C. Reader and seconded by C. Martinson to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by C. M. Johnson and seconded by C. Reader to add "Emergency Order 2020-05" under New Business A.

At the roll call:

Aye: M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader; Topkok; Brown;  
D. Johnson

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion to amend CARRIED.

Returning to the main motion

At the roll call:

Aye: D. Johnson; M. Johnson; Martinson; Reader;  
Topkok; Brown

Nay:



Abstain:

The motion, as amended, **CARRIED**.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- 1) Kirsten Timbers thanked the Common Council for being proactive and requested the restrictions remain in place. She expressed concern for regional vulnerability and capacity to handle a virus outbreak.
- 2) Maureen Koezuna thanked the Council saying they had more support than they knew. She requested the restrictions remain in place.
- 3) The Village of Solomon expressed support for the continued travel permit process and expressed support for a cautious slow opening with support from Norton Sound Regional Hospital and Dr. Peterson.
- 4) Mercy Patton explained that she was in a custody battle and unable to see her children with the current travel restrictions in place. She asked they be lifted.
- 5) Yusef Rida, from Nome Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, stated the Department was seeking input from the City of Nome on upcoming projects and explained that each project would have a site specific COVID-19 mitigation plan.
- 6) Aaron Blankenship expressed concern with a potential large ramp up in travel after the new State health mandate came out. He requested the permitting system remain in place.
- 7) Paul Kosto of the Nome Chamber of Commerce thanked the Common Council for taking the threat seriously and clarified comments submitted for the May 15 special meeting. He questioned the legality of Emergency Order 2020-01, referring to AS Title 18 and the authority to place someone in quarantine. He noted the State was relying on voluntary compliance.
- 8) Council Member Reader read a question and response email chain between Council Member Mark Johnson and the State of Alaska "Covid Questions" email address.
- 9) Ken Hughes requested a metrics-based approach to use in determining the City's reopening strategy and suggested using antibody testing on a random sample of residents. He opined that education on enhanced hygiene practices is always good.
- 10) Panganga Pungowiyi suggested a cautious approach to reopening with a transparent plan over three to six months. She suggested the City hold a listening session outside of a formal meeting and possibly modeling the City's opening plan on the State's but delaying several weeks to observe effects in the rest of the state first.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Review of Emergency Orders to Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in the City of Nome.**

- i. Emergency Order 2020-01**
- ii. Emergency Order 2020-02**
- iii. Emergency Order 2020-03**
- iv. Emergency Order 2020-04**
- v. Emergency Order 2020-05**
  - Manager Steckman summarized Emergency Order 2020-05 (EO 2020-05), noting it consolidated the previous four orders, and allowed for choice of a shorter quarantine period with testing. He explained the City was asking for limited travel between project and quarantine area for essential workers traveling to Nome and that they have their food delivered so as to limit contact with the community.
  - Council Member M. Johnson noted the State reopening plan and asked why mandate 12 was mentioned as he thought it was superseded by the latest state mandate.
  - Council Member Brown asked why the City was referring to the mandates at all.
  - Manager Steckman explained the intent of EO 2020-05 was to not allow the manager to exceed the powers enumerated therein and that he expected to take no further action on the part of the City in addition to what was contained in EO 2020-05.
  - Council Member Reader asked what the purpose of the travel permit was.
  - Manager Steckman explained that it educated travelers coming to Nome of community concerns regarding the virus.
  - Council Member Reader asked how potential tracking might work.
  - Manager Steckman explained that the hospital would take charge.
  - Council Member Brown noted the document served to document who was coming in and that they understood the requirements.
  - Council Member Reader asked why the City was using a travel permit if the State was doing something different.
  - Manager Steckman noted the objections to calling the form a permit, explaining the terminology would soon be changed. He explained matching the State of Alaska was a moving target that changed every two weeks with no advance notice given to local governments. He took issue with the State of Alaska saying they would take an action and subsequently not take that action.
  - Council Member Doug Johnson explained that while he didn't like restrictions, the travel form should be in the future for some time to come, if nothing else than to track movement and keep Nome away from a conflagration. He noted the City doesn't have to be the organization to use the info and can give to the hospital.
  - Council Member Brown noted the form ensured that travelers had proper authorization to travel and educated travelers in best practices for decreasing the spread.
  - Council Member Reader asked about travel for child custody.





- Manager Steckman explained the City makes every effort to work with people and the issue presented in Citizens' Comments was the first he'd heard of it.
- Council Member Brown asked if the Council had an issue with people traveling back and forth to Anchorage for groceries.
- Council Member Topkok explained that she was apprehensive about encouraging travel back and forth to Anchorage. She asked the Council to be respectful of the trauma of the Spanish Flu pandemic from 100 years ago. She said she was not quite sure of the purpose of this meeting, but suggested the City proceed with caution.
- Council Member Doug Johnson agreed in general but didn't understand the details, noting rapid testing might help. He explained that Nome could watch as Anchorage opened and adapt their process based on how it goes. He spoke in support of continued permitting.
- Council Member Martinson said that if things go well for the State then maybe the City could loosen its requirements.
- Council Member Mark Johnson agreed, saying the key is testing; that Nome could follow the State of Alaska and adapt as the situation changes.
- Council Member Brown, after further discussion by the Council, suggested the EO 2020-05 be sent back to the City Attorney for revision and include a 14 day quarantine for out of state travelers and 7 day quarantine for intrastate travelers with voluntary testing. The Council requested an opinion from the attorney on the enforcement of protective measures and that EO 2020-06 supersede all previous orders.
- Council Member Doug Johnson requested a resolution declaring an economic disaster.
- Council Member Topkok thanked City staff for their efforts.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by C. Martinson seconded by C. Reader that the meeting be adjourned.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Common Council adjourned at 7:59 PM

**APPROVED and SIGNED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2020.



**JERALD BROWN**  
Acting Mayor

**ATTEST:**



**BRYANT HAMMOND**  
City Clerk

